

the Senate amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIONAL VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION WEEK

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 8) expressing the sense of Congress that there should be established a National Visiting Nurse Association Week, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the consideration of the concurrent resolution?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 8

Whereas visiting nurse associations ("VNAs") are nonprofit home health agencies that, for more than 120 years, have been united in their mission to provide cost-effective and compassionate home and community-based health care to individuals, regardless of the individuals' condition or ability to pay for services;

Whereas there are approximately 500 visiting nurse associations, which employ more than 90,000 clinicians, provide health care to more than 4,000,000 people each year, and provide a critical safety net in communities by developing a network of community support services that enable individuals to live independently at home;

Whereas visiting nurse associations have historically served as primary public health care providers in their communities, and are today one of the largest providers of mass immunizations in the medicare program (delivering more than 2,500,000 influenza immunizations annually);

Whereas visiting nurse associations are often the home health providers of last resort, serving the most chronic of conditions (such as congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, AIDS, and quadriplegia) and individuals with the least ability to pay for services (more than 50 percent of all medicaid home health admissions are by visiting nurse associations);

Whereas any visiting nurse association budget surplus is reinvested in supporting the association's mission through services, including charity care, adult day care centers, wellness clinics, Meals-on-Wheels, and immunization programs;

Whereas visiting nurse associations and other nonprofit home health agencies care for the highest percentage of terminally ill and bedridden patients;

Whereas thousands of visiting nurse association volunteers across the Nation devote time serving as individual agency board members, raising funds, visiting patients in their homes, assisting in wellness clinics, and delivering meals to patients;

Whereas the establishment of a National Visiting Nurse Association Week would in-

crease public awareness of the charity-based missions of visiting nurse associations and of their ability to meet the needs of chronically ill and disabled individuals who prefer to live at home rather than in a nursing home, and would spotlight preventive health clinics, adult day care programs, and other customized wellness programs that meet local community needs; and

Whereas the second week of May 2005 is an appropriate week to establish as National Visiting Nurse Association Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that there should be established a National Visiting Nurse Association Week.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. Con. Res. 8, a resolution to establish an annual National Visiting Nurse Associations Week in honor of these health care heroes who are dedicated to service in the ultimate caring profession.

The Visiting Nurse Associations, VNAs, of today are founded on the principle that people who are sick, disabled and elderly benefit most from health care when it is offered in their own homes.

Home care is an increasingly important part of our health care system today.

The kinds of highly skilled—and often technically complex—services that the VNAs provide have enabled millions of our most frail and vulnerable patients to avoid hospitals and nursing homes and stay just where they want to be—in the comfort and security of their own homes.

They made a critical difference when they started in the late 19th century, and are making a critical difference now as we embark upon the 21st.

There currently are approximately 500 VNAs nationwide.

Through these exceptional organizations, 90,000 clinicians dedicate their lives to bringing health care into the homes of an estimated 3 million Americans every year.

VNAs are truly the heart of home care in this country today, and it is time for Congress to recognize the vital services that visiting nurses provide to their patients and their families.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution establishing an annual National Visiting Nurse Associations' Week.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DONALD G. BROTZMAN POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5370) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4985 Moorhead Avenue in Boulder, Colorado, as the "Donald G. Brotzman Post Office Building," and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 5370

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DONALD G. BROTZMAN POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4985 Moorhead Avenue in Boulder, Colorado, shall be known and designated as the "Donald G. Brotzman Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Donald G. Brotzman Post Office Building.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. Con. Res. 8 and H.R. 5370.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ASTRONAUT LEROY GORDON COOPER, JR.

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Science be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 847) honoring the life of astronaut Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr., and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 847

Whereas Leroy Gordon Cooper, Jr., was born on March 6, 1927, in Shawnee, Oklahoma;

Whereas Gordon Cooper served as a colonel in the United States Air Force and was selected as one of the original Project Mercury astronauts in April of 1959;

Whereas, when Gordon Cooper piloted the Faith 7 spacecraft on the final operational mission of Project Mercury from May 15 to May 16, 1963, he traveled a total of 546,167 statute miles and became the first astronaut from the United States to spend more than a day in space;

Whereas, when Gordon Cooper served as command pilot on the 8-day 120-orbit Gemini 5 mission that began on August 21, 1965, he and pilot Charles Conrad established a new space endurance record by traveling a distance of 3,312,993 miles in an elapsed time of 190 hours and 56 minutes;

Whereas Gordon Cooper was the first man to go into space for a second time;

Whereas Gordon Cooper served as backup command pilot for the Gemini 12 mission and